

Factors in a Career Choice

Listed below are aspects of a career or job choice that can make the difference between your satisfaction and dissatisfaction. Consider each factor in relation to your preferences and needs. Use career center staff and resources to help you find the information. Talk to people in the fields you are considering. Indicate with a “+” or “-” sign whether an occupation satisfies your preferences for each factor.

	Occupation #1	Occupation #2	Occupation #3	Example
Specific Work Performed <i>What tasks are performed in the job? Would I be primarily working with people, information, or things? Is that what I want to do? Are these the kind of people I like to help or serve?</i>				+
Skills, Knowledge, and Abilities <i>Do I possess the skills and abilities needed to enter the occupation? Do I have the potential to develop them? Do I enjoy using these skills?</i>				+
Work Setting <i>Where would I work? Is this a setting I would like? What are the conditions (indoors/outdoors, noisy, etc?)</i>				+
Physical Capability <i>Am I physically able to do this kind of work?</i>				+
Employment Opportunity <i>What are my chances for finding work in this field? Are there job openings now? In the future? Where are they? Will I be competitive?</i>				+
Compensation <i>What salary could I expect at the entry level? What do experienced workers earn? Are there chances for overtime or bonuses? What kind of benefits could I expect in this field? Does the salary meet my needs?</i>				-
Hours <i>What are the usual hours? Full-time or part-time? Is shift work required?</i>				-
Preparation <i>Am I willing and able to get the training required? Do I have the time and money needed for training? Are there different ways to enter the occupation?</i>				+
Licenses and Certificates <i>Are certificates or licenses required? Can I qualify for them?</i>				n/a
Opportunity for Advancement <i>What are my chances of moving up in the field? What is the typical way to advance? Am I willing and able to do what it takes to advance?</i>				+
Values <i>Is this work compatible with my values? Will this kind of work help me reach my long-range goals?</i>				+
Interests <i>Would I like this type of work enough to make it a career?</i>				+
Other				n/a
Results <i>Total the number of positive responses (+) for each occupation under consideration. Which occupation is the best match for you?</i>				9